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**MEXICAN NATIONAL PLEADS GUILTY AND IS SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT FOR
ILLEGALLY REENTERING THE UNITED STATES**

CHARLESTON, W. Va. – Agustin Escareno-Aguinaga, 25, of Mexico, pleaded guilty before United States District Judge Thomas E. Johnston to illegally reentering the United States of America. The Court, with the consent of the defendant, proceeded directly to sentencing at the conclusion of the plea hearing. Escareno-Aguinaga was sentenced to credit for time served, as well as a mandatory special assessment of \$100. The defendant had been in custody since February 9, 2011.

The conviction stems from an investigation of six individuals, including the defendant, who were staying at a Kanawha City hotel located in Charleston. The investigation revealed that all members of this group were in the United States illegally. Following the investigation, Department of Homeland Security processed these individuals for deportation. A further investigation revealed that Escareno-Aguinaga had been previously removed from the United States on two prior occasions: in 2006 from New Mexico and 2010 from Arizona. The sentence handed down also permits the Department of Homeland Security to commence administrative deportation proceedings against the defendant.

The Department of Homeland Security conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Erik Goes handled the prosecution.

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